



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 100

WRITTEN QUESTION

K McNamara to the Attorney General, Hon Marie-Clare Boothby MLA:

Questions for the Liquor Commission

These were questions prepared for the Liquor Commission for Estimates, however, due to time constraints were unable to be asked.

1. How many liquor licence applications has the Commission received, approved, rejected, or varied in the past 12 months?

Between June 2024 and July 2025, the Liquor Commission received 46 applications. Of these:

- 45 were approved,
- none were rejected,
- and 2 resulted in varied licence conditions.

(Note: Some applications involved multiple components.)

	Received	Approved	Rejected	Varied	Notes:
Application to grant a Liquor Licence	9	8	0	0	One application to grant a liquor licence was withdrawn by the Applicant.
Application for variation of conditions of Licence	8	10	0	0	Two disciplinary hearings resulted in varied conditions on a Licence. All other variations were proposed by the Licensee's and agreed to by the Commission.
Application for substitution of premises	1	1	0	0	
Application for a material alteration	6	6	0	0	
Application for special and major event authorities	11	11	0	0	
Application for a General Restricted Area	4	4	0	0	

	Received	Approved	Rejected	Varied	Notes:
Disciplinary Action against Licensee	6	5	0	2	One disciplinary hearing was dismissed by the Liquor Commission. Two licences conditions varied as disciplinary actions - also listed above.
Other*	1	1	0	0	

*Application for Registration of a Small Community Group

2. What are the primary factors considered in deciding when to approve a liquor license?

Refer to section 59 of the *Liquor Act 2019* (the Act).

3. What considerations are placed upon social harm?

Refer section 3, section 49, and section 50, *Liquor Act 2019*.

4. How are alcohol-related harm indicators — such as hospitalisations or assaults — used in licensing decisions?

Considered on a case-by-case basis. Refer to published reasons for decision (e.g. Barkly region variation, 6 Jan 2021).

5. What weight does the Commission give to community objections versus industry submissions or economic benefits in liquor licence decisions?

Balanced as required under *Liquor Act 2019*. Refer sections 3, 49, and relevant decisions.

6. Has the Commission received submissions or held meetings with alcohol industry lobbyists in the last 12 months?

Yes.

7. What safeguards are in place to ensure regulatory independence from industry pressure?

Refer section 7(4)(a) and section 5, *Liquor Commission Act 2018*.

8. How many objections from Aboriginal organisations or health groups have been received in the last 12 months — and how many were upheld?

7 received. 6 of these resulted in own-initiative enquiries for licensed premises which were upheld and conducted.

9. Has the Commission approved a licence in direct contradiction to the community?

No.

10. What mechanisms are in place to ensure local communities have a genuine say in liquor decisions?

Refer to Liquor Commission webpage for complaints, objections, and review processes. Decisions are reviewable by NTCAT under Liquor Act 2019.

11. How does the Commission incorporate health data and harm minimisation principles in decision-making?

Refer to response outlined in Question 3.

12. Does the Commission consult regularly with health authorities, Aboriginal health organisations, or family violence services?

Refer to response outlined in Question 3.

13. Has the Commission evaluated the impacts of limiting the hours that liquor is available to be purchased or minimum alcohol floor price mechanisms?

No.

14. If yes: what were the outcomes of this research?

Not applicable.

15. Was the Liquor Commission consulted before the scrapping of the MUP?

No. The decision to scrap the Minimum Unit Price (MUP) was a public election commitment made prior to the August 2024 election and was widely known across the Northern Territory.

16. If yes to the above, what was the advice given to the Government in this consultation?

Not applicable.